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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 10 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to his note ONU-01130 of 16 March 2006 putting forward the Government of Mexico as a candidate for membership in the Human Rights Council.

Pursuant to the terms of General Assembly resolution 60/251 to the effect that Member States, when electing the members of the Council, should take into account the contribution and commitment of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights, the Permanent Mission is attaching a document which outlines the merits of Mexico's candidacy, together with any proposals and goals associated with it.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 10 March 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Voluntary pledges and contributions of Mexico to the promotion and protection of human rights

Executive summary

The Government of Mexico is firmly committed to the effective promotion and protection of all human rights, within a framework of international cooperation. It has therefore adopted a State policy on human rights, with two objectives: improving the domestic situation of human rights through structural changes to overcome the various setbacks in this area; and, strengthening the international legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Openness

Mexico has demonstrated a genuine openness at the international level with respect to human rights.

- At the request of Mexico, a permanent presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established in Mexico, and a technical cooperation agreement was signed with the Office with a view to the preparation of an assessment of the human rights situation in Mexico and help in drafting the national human rights programme.
- Mexico has issued an open invitation to all special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and, since 1997, has received 11 visits from the special procedures and 3 from the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- It has established 32 autonomous bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, since the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights (1990), and it has steadily increased opportunities for the involvement of organized civil society in the processes of consultation and drafting of national reports and/or plans.
- It is a State party to the main international human rights bodies, has accepted the competence of the treaty monitoring bodies and has presented detailed, comprehensive and realistic periodic reports.
- In the inter-American system, it is a State party to the main human rights instruments. It has issued an open invitation to all rapporteurs of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and fully recognizes the competence of that Commission and the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Contributions

Mexico has made considerable contributions to promote human rights.

- At the national level, apart from the human rights assessment study prepared by OHCHR, which served as a basis for the national human rights programme,

some important legislative reforms have been carried out with regard to human rights, including the abolition of the death penalty in Mexico in 2005.

- At the international level, Mexico has participated actively and constructively in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly in recent years, sponsoring proposals on the protection of human rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, women and indigenous peoples and on anti-terrorism measures. It has co-sponsored various resolutions on human rights. It recommended and still promotes the drafting of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, it participated in the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the draft International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances, and it advocated the drafting of a United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

As regards the reform of the United Nations human rights machinery, Mexico advocated, during the 2005 Summit, the strengthening of OHCHR and participated actively in the negotiations on the conception, design and establishment of the new Human Rights Council. It intends to lend its full support to the effective implementation of resolution 60/251, and for that reason wishes to become one of the initial members of the Council.

Mexico would like the Council to be characterized by transparent and efficient work and to focus on the effective improvement of international human rights standards. To this end, the contributions of the thematic and geographical mandates and the participation of the civil society organizations and the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights are indispensable. In addition, Mexico will contribute to the design and development of the periodic review mechanism for the situation of human rights in all countries.

The contributions of Mexico in this new body would be enhanced by virtue of the priority which it attaches to human rights in its domestic and foreign policies and the experience which it acquires as a result of its openness to monitoring and full cooperation with international bodies.

Commitments

Mexico is aware of the areas in which it must increase its efforts at the national level, and for this reason it is committed to promoting the highest levels of human rights protection and implementing the recommendations that derive from the universal periodic review mechanism. In addition, it is resolved to contribute to the prompt and substantive consolidation of the Human Rights Council pursuant to the mandate assigned to the Council in General Assembly resolution 60/251, to strengthen international cooperation so that States are able to develop effective public policies for the promotion and protection of all human rights and to ensure that the Council is effective in preventing human rights violations.

Voluntary pledges and contributions of Mexico to the promotion and protection of human rights

I. Mexico in the promotion and protection of human rights

❖ **The Government of Mexico is deeply and firmly committed to the effective promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, within a framework of international cooperation.**

Such commitment is based on the conviction that a context of respect for and observance of fundamental rights offers the right conditions for the development and peaceful coexistence of the peoples of the United Nations. It has therefore adopted a State policy on human rights, with two specific objectives: improving the domestic situation of human rights through structural changes to overcome the various setbacks in this area; and strengthening the international legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The main focus of this policy has been on genuine openness to monitoring, full cooperation with international human rights bodies and the incorporation of Mexico's experience and vision in the efforts to reform the multilateral system of promotion and protection of human rights.

II. Openness at the international level

❖ **Mexico is one of the countries with the highest degree of voluntary acceptance of international monitoring.**

❖ **Mexico is a party to the main human rights treaties.**

In relying on the positive contribution of the international human rights system to improve its domestic situation, Mexico has done the following:

- It has voluntarily requested the establishment of a permanent office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Mexico. Mexico is the first country in a situation of internal stability to have taken this step.
- It has signed a technical cooperation agreement with OHCHR that includes the preparation of an assessment of the human rights situation in Mexico and help in drafting the national human rights programme.
- It maintains an open invitation to all special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights. Since 1997 it has received 11 visits from special rapporteurs, independent experts and members of Commission working groups on human rights.
- It has also received three visits from the head of OHCHR.
- In the context of the inter-American system, it has issued an open invitation to all rapporteurs of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and even to the Commission itself.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross has established a permanent delegation in Mexico City, in order to promote the dissemination of the

principles of international humanitarian law and assist in training Mexican armed forces and police corps.

Since 1990, when the National Commission on Human Rights was established, Mexico has consolidated the widest network in the world of autonomous bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights (32), whose establishment and operation is governed by the Paris Principles.

In addition, the Government of Mexico has steadily increased opportunities for the involvement of organized civil society, as is evidenced by the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the processes of consultation and drafting of reports and/or national plans on human rights and in the Mexican delegations that attend the meetings of multilateral bodies (principally the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly).

As to legally binding instruments:

- Mexico is a party to the main human rights treaties of the United Nations;[1]
- It is a State party to other important instruments for the effectiveness and observance of human rights at the universal level;[2]
- It has accepted the jurisdiction of human rights treaty bodies in the area of individual communications[3] and has made a real effort to submit and present detailed, comprehensive and realistic periodic reports.
- In the context of the inter-American system, Mexico is bound by the main human rights instruments[4] and fully recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, it is bound by other Inter-American instruments of relevance to human rights.[5]

As a result of the aforementioned visits and the examination of its reports, the Government of Mexico has received valuable observations and recommendations, which it has made strenuous efforts to disseminate and act on. It is worth noting in particular the human rights cooperation programme which it entered into with the

[1] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its first Optional Protocol; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

[2] Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity; and Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court.

[3] Human Rights Committee; Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Committee against Torture; Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

[4] American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man; American Convention on Human Rights; Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons; Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women; Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

[5] Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; Inter-American Democratic Charter; Declaration on Principles on Freedom of Expression of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

European Commission in 2003 with the aim of securing the incorporation of international human rights standards and practices into domestic legislation and ensuring their full implementation by the competent authorities.

III. Contributions of Mexico to promote Human Rights

❖ **At the country level, a national human rights programme was drafted.**

❖ **Constitutional amendments strengthening human rights were introduced.**

❖ **The death penalty was abolished in Mexico.**

As a consequence of the technical cooperation agreement with OHCHR, an assessment of the human rights situation was carried out with a view to identifying any structural causes of human rights violations in Mexico.

A national human rights programme was drafted which will enable the State to fulfil its obligations, thereby guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights.

Additionally, with a view to enhancing the legal framework for the protection of all human rights, important constitutional and legislative amendment processes have been introduced in the Mexican Congress:

- A proposal to amend 11 articles of the Constitution was introduced, in order to ensure the constitutional recognition of human rights, improve their jurisdictional protection and oblige all authorities to observe and protect them.
- Another proposal was aimed at the reform of the criminal justice system as a whole, based on the promotion and protection of human rights.
- A highly significant reform became effective on 10 December 2005 when the Congress abolished the death penalty in Mexico for which provision had still existed in the Constitution and the Military Justice Code, although it had not been applied for more than 70 years.

❖ **At the international level, Mexico has participated actively in the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.**

❖ **It was also actively involved in the United Nations human rights machinery reform process.**

❖ **Mexico fully supports the effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/251, establishing the Human Rights Council.**

Within the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly,

- Mexico has sponsored proposals dealing with anti-terrorism and protection of human rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, women and indigenous peoples;
- It has co-sponsored various resolutions on human rights questions;
- It has recommended and still promotes the drafting of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities;

- It has taken an active and constructive part in the recent setting of international standards in the Commission on Human Rights, including in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the draft International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances. It has also firmly advocated the drafting of a United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

As regards the reform of the United Nations human rights machinery, xico advocated, during the 2005 Summit, the strengthening of OHCHR as one the necessary measures to provide the system with better tools to guarantee ti ull enjoyment of all human rights. With the same motivation of strengthening e system, it participated actively in the negotiations on the conception, design establishment of the new Human Rights Council. It intends to lend its full support the effective implementation of resolution 60/251, and for that reason it wishes to become one of the initial members of the Council.

Mexico's participation in the Council will be geared to the development of a specialized body characterized by its transparent, efficient and fruitful work and always focusing on the effective improvement of international human rights standards. To this end, the contributions of the thematic and geographical mandates and those of the civil society organizations and the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights are indispensable. In addition, Mexico has consistently defended the idea of creating a periodic review mechanism to monitor the situation of human rights in all countries.

Mexico could make extremely positive contributions to the work of this new body for two fundamental reasons: the high priority it attaches to human rights in its national and foreign policy, and the broad experience and knowledge acquired in this area in recent years by basing its policy on the principles of openness to monitoring and full cooperation with international bodies.

IV. Issues remaining on the agenda

✣ Mexico will continue its efforts to remedy human rights deficiencies.

Notwithstanding the achievements registered so far in its human rights policy, Mexico acknowledges that much effort is still needed to remedy the deficiencies that still exist at the national level. Reforms should include:

- Strengthening the autonomy and independence of the authorities responsible for law enforcement and combating torture;
- Improving the conditions of the penitentiary system and instituting work and rehabilitation for imprisoned individuals;
- Promoting higher levels of efficiency and honesty in the public security system;
- Strengthening the general legal framework relating to freedom of expression and adopting special measures to guarantee the protection of journalists and avoid impunity;

- Adopting additional measures to protect the economic, social and cultural rights of groups affected by poverty, especially extreme poverty;
- Increasing efforts to guarantee the right to education;
- Strengthening the actions to remedy deficiencies in the access of indigenous people to law enforcement systems and administration of justice, indigenous lands and territories and indigenous education, language and culture, notwithstanding the strides made towards eliminating discrimination; and
- Continuing the adjustment of domestic laws to international standards, promoting the elimination of stereotypes and the incorporation of a gender perspective, eliminating discrimination against women in all spheres, protecting their sexual and reproductive rights and their right to a life free of violence and ensuring that the perpetrators of crimes against women do not go unpunished.

V. Commitments regarding human rights

- **Mexico will maintain a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.**
- **It will implement the recommendations on human rights.**
- **It will contribute to the prompt consolidation of the Human Rights Council.**

Pursuant to the terms of General Assembly resolution 60/251, Mexico undertakes to:

- Defend and promote the highest levels of human rights protection.
- Maintain a standing open invitation to special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
- Implement the recommendations and observations emanating from the human rights assessment, the special procedures, the treaty bodies and the national and local ombudsmen.
- Implement any recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review mechanism.
- Encourage the permanent development of the international human rights standards where necessary to cover any lack of protection.
- Promote the immediate adoption of a convention for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearances and of a United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Strongly support negotiations to conclude as soon as possible an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen State policymaking with respect to the permanent promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the highest standards at the international level, involving the different levels of national Government and civil society as a whole.

- Contribute to the prompt and substantive consolidation of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the mandate drawn up by General Assembly resolution 60/251, and to this end to:
  - Strengthen international cooperation in order to help States develop effective public policies for the promotion and protection of all human rights.
  - Contribute to the design and development of the universal periodic review mechanism.
  - Work for a Council that favours genuine movement towards the prevention of human rights violations.
  - Broaden and strengthen the participation of civil society, NGOs, national human rights institutions and other actors involved in the work of the Human Rights Council.

The Government of Mexico will be most grateful for your valuable support for its candidacy, which is based on Mexico's pledges and contributions in the field of human rights.

New York, 10 April 2006

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 136
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation 2004/05	$121,610,300
Expenditure 2004/05	$118,025,900
Appropriation 2005/06	$146,935,200
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General 2006/07	$189,538,800
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee 2006/07	$157,875,300

1. **The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would entail a reduction of $31,663,500 in the proposed budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The reasons for this are set out in paragraphs 23-119 below. The Committee also makes a number of observations and recommendations with regard to the administration and management of the resources of the support account for peacekeeping operations and areas of possible savings.**

2. **The Advisory Committee's general report on administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations will contain its views and recommendations on a number of cross-cutting issues. Consequently, in the**

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paragraphs below, the Committee deals only with resources and other items that relate specifically to the support account for peacekeeping operations.

3. The documents used by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations are listed at the end of the present report.

I. General considerations

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its report on the budget for the support account for the period 2005/06 (A/59/784) it referred to the purpose of the establishment of the support account in 1991 and the methodology introduced for funding it. The Committee pointed out that, since then, there has been an evolution in backstopping capacity resulting from, among other things, sizeable investments in technological improvements, the professionalization of personnel through diversified training, the development of mechanisms for rapid deployment capability and the strengthening of strategic, analytical and operational capacity provided following the issuance of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see A/55/305-S/2000/809).

5. At the same time, peacekeeping missions themselves have evolved into complex operations of multidimensional character with their own substantive, managerial, and logistical capacities, with increasing authority being delegated from Headquarters to the field. The Advisory Committee takes note of the overview table in the Secretary-General's report, which provides data on the evolution of financial and human resources for peacekeeping operations, including support account resources, from 2000 to 2007 (A/60/727, table 1). In addition to the information provided therein, the Committee notes that for 2006/07 the level of civilian staff in peacekeeping missions is projected at 17,699 (comprising international and national staff, excluding the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy) (A/60/696, table 1). As previously pointed out by the Committee, all elements in this evolution should have an impact on the level of backstopping required, leading to efficiencies that would reduce the ever-increasing need for these resources at Headquarters. **The Committee continues to emphasize that the requirement for additional functions or tasks to be performed should not necessarily lead to a requirement for additional posts. Similarly, the creation of new units should not be proposed as a means to justify new or higher-level posts. The Committee has also pointed out that the support account should not be used as a vehicle to propose the establishment of posts that more properly should be proposed under the regular budget.**

6. **As support account posts are of a temporary nature, the need for them must be reviewed in terms of evolving requirements, and the presentation of support account requirements must justify the "totality" of resources rather than just any increase proposed. Further, proposals for increases in support account requirements should take into account an assessment of the management processes involved at Headquarters and in the missions themselves, in accordance with paragraph 6, section IV, of General Assembly resolution 59/296. The effectiveness and efficiency of the management processes should be regularly reviewed and assessed in order to identify what efficiency gains have been achieved and what further gains are possible through**

streamlining and improved methods, before additional resources are requested. This assessment should embrace the units funded through the support account and their functional counterparts in the missions and, if applicable, other field entities of the United Nations, while seeking to identify means to streamline and simplify procedures, with a view to achieving economies in requirements for both human and other resources (see A/59/784, paras. 7-10).

7. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General analyse the evolution of the support account starting with the original concept of overload, and describe changing needs to justify departures from the original concept used in establishing the support account and the principles and guidelines approved by the General Assembly concerning expenses of peacekeeping operations (A/59/784, para. 11). The Committee notes that the Secretary-General has not yet undertaken such a review but promises to do so and report on this issue to the General Assembly during the second resumed part of its sixty-first session (A/60/727, annex IV.B).

8. The Advisory Committee requested the Board of Auditors to undertake an analysis of how the support account has evolved to its current application and configuration, and how it may further evolve (A/59/736, para. 20). In considering the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2005,[1] the Advisory Committee noted that the information provided by the Board in that regard was mainly statistical in nature (see A/60/784, para. 30). **The Committee remains of the view that an analysis of the support account is needed along the lines of what is described in its previous report and that the Board is an appropriate entity to undertake this work.**

9. **The Advisory Committee therefore reiterates its request to the Board to conduct an analysis of the support account for peacekeeping operations. This request is in accordance with regulation 7.7 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.** In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that under financial regulation 7.10, the Board of Auditors, for the purpose of making a special examination, may engage the services of any other person or firm that, in its opinion, is technically qualified (ST/SGB/2003/7, article VII).

10. **As previously suggested by the Advisory Committee, an analysis should be provided on how fluctuations in the level of peacekeeping activities affect the level of required Headquarters backstopping, the factors that determine the level of required backstopping and the delineation of functions in terms of what must be performed at Headquarters and what can be carried out in the field (A/59/736, para. 20).**

11. **The Board should also determine whether posts approved by the General Assembly in successive years following the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see A/55/305-S/2000/809) have been used and continue to be used for the intended purposes. On a related matter, the Board should analyse the ability of the relevant departments to manage senior staff flexibly so as to respond to new responsibilities and challenges without creating new structures and senior-level posts.**

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 5*, Vol. II, and corrigendum (A/60/5, Vol. II, and Corr.1).

12. **It is the Advisory Committee's observation that consultants are often engaged to undertake work that can be done by staff recruited for their high degree of specialization or whose skills have been enhanced by training. An analysis should therefore be undertaken of whether funds expended on consultancy represent the best use of those financial resources, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/221 and administrative instruction ST/AI/1999/7 on consultants and individual contractors.**

13. **The Advisory Committee points out that there are a number of analyses already under way. In this regard, account should be taken of previous recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including the report on the comprehensive management audit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/717) and the review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of management structures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, paying specific attention to the interaction, coordination and cooperation of the Department with other Secretariat departments and offices, funds and programmes, as requested by the General Assembly (resolution 59/296, section IV, para. 5).**

14. **In addition, attention should be paid to the review of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of its organizational structure and its administrative processes and procedures (A/60/727, para. 7); the review of the governance structures, principles and accountability throughout the United Nations system requested in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 59/264 A; and the overall management review of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (see A/59/784, para. 111). An analysis should also be made of how the support account relates to the regular budget.**

II. Financial performance for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

15. The Advisory Committee recalls that the total support account resources for post and non-post requirements approved for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 amounted to $121,610,300 gross ($105,100,900 net), including a total establishment of 761 temporary posts (see General Assembly resolution 58/298).

16. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/681 and Corr.1 and Add.1), the expenditures for the period amounted to $118,025,500 gross ($102,134,200 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $3,584,800 gross ($2,966,700 net) — in gross terms, 2.0 per cent of the approved resources for the period.

17. The Advisory Committee notes that the unencumbered balance was essentially attributable to savings of $2,546,500 under post resources, mostly resulting from lower-than-budgeted staff costs relating to the resident auditors in peacekeeping missions under the Office of Internal Oversight Services and higher-than-budgeted vacancy rates for General Service staff in the Office of Internal Oversight Services and for Professional staff in the Department of Management, owing to delayed recruitment of staff for a number of new posts (A/60/681, paras. 21 and 34).

18. The savings of $1,038,300 reported under non-post resources are due mostly to reduced expenditures on official travel by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management resulting from reprioritization of activities in response to the surge in peacekeeping (A/60/681, paras. 11 and 37); and reduced expenditures on information technology due to the transfer of responsibility for maintenance of the Galaxy Data Centre to the Department of Management and delays in the procurement of some equipment for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/681, para. 13).

19. The Advisory Committee's comments on the information contained in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 that follows.

III. Updated financial information in respect of the current period

20. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/301, approved an amount of $146,935,200 gross ($128,107,300 net) for support account post and non-post resources for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, and a total staffing establishment of 831 temporary support account posts.

21. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that expenditures as at 31 March 2006 amounted to $98,413,545 (see annex I).

22. Of the 831 currently approved posts (522 Professional, 306 General Service and 3 Security Service posts), as at 31 March 2006, a total of 781 were encumbered (490 Professional, 288 General Service and 3 Security Service).

IV. Proposed cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

General

23. The Secretary-General, in his report A/60/727, estimates support account resources for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 at $189,538,800 gross ($170,552,400 net), which would provide for the staffing of 973 temporary support account posts.

24. The amount proposed, in gross terms, represents an increase of $42,603,600, or 29 per cent ($42,445,100 in net terms), over the total amount of $146,935,200 gross ($128,107,000 net) approved for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The increase is due to the requirements for 142 new posts ($18.2 million), including four resident auditor posts transferred from mission budgets, and to an increase in non-post resources ($24.4 million). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, if budgeted at full cost (or full incumbency), the total resource requirements for the support account would amount to $198,480,800 gross (see also para. 26 below).

25. The overall resources estimated for posts ($131,569,100) take into account the proposed net increase of 142 support account posts proposed, as compared with 831 posts approved for 2005/06. These include:

(a) A net increase of 79 posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (reflecting the proposal for 84 additional posts and the transfer of 5 posts to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy);

(b) Thirty-eight new posts in the Department of Management;

(c) A net increase of 20 posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services (reflecting the proposal for 19 new posts, the proposed transfer of 5 resident auditor posts to the support account from the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the abolition of 4 resident auditor posts in United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL));

(d) Four new posts in the Office of Legal Affairs;

(e) One additional post in the Department of Safety and Security.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations on those proposals are contained in its discussion of the organizational units to which they relate.

26. The Advisory Committee further notes that a staff turnover factor of 5 per cent and 1.5 per cent has been applied to continuing posts in the Professional and General Service categories, respectively; a delayed recruitment factor of 50 per cent and 35 per cent has been applied for new posts in the Professional and General Service categories, respectively, in the costing exercise (see para. 24 above). Standard salary costs for New York are applied to the posts at Headquarters; standard salary costs for Vienna, Nairobi and Addis Ababa are applied to the respective regional investigation hubs; and mission-specific average costs are applied for resident auditor posts in peacekeeping missions. Staff assessment has been reduced by approximately 20 per cent in accordance with the Secretary-General's proposal to address the imbalance in the Tax Equalization Fund.

27. Paragraph 37 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727) indicates that 4 per cent of the net salaries is included in accordance with the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report on the liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health insurance benefits (A/60/450 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee recalls that in that report the Secretary-General proposed a number of measures that needed to be taken to fund and account for the accrued liabilities for after-service health insurance benefits; the measures provided, inter alia, for the transfer of $250 million from unencumbered balances and savings on, or cancellation of prior-period obligations of, active peacekeeping missions as at the end of the 2005 fiscal year. **Depending on what the General Assembly may decide, there may be a consequential impact on the financing of the support account and peacekeeping missions.**

28. In response to General Assembly resolutions 57/318 and 58/298, it is indicated that no posts are projected to be vacant for 12 months as at 30 June 2006, and that no rejustification is required. No reclassifications are proposed for the 2006/07 period.

29. Non-post resources total $57,969,700, as shown in the table below:

Category	2005/06 (Approved)	2006/07 (Proposed)	Variance	Percentage
	United States dollars			
General temporary assistance	8 522 600	11 028 700	2 506 100	29.4
Consultants	1 767 800	5 057 800	3 290 000	186.1
Official travel	5 227 600	11 162 700	5 935 100	113.5
Facilities and infrastructure	9 329 200	14 177 400	4 848 200	52.0
Communications	1 191 500	1 672 800	481 300	40.4
Information technology	6 168 900	12 072 000	5 903 100	95.7
Medical	100 000	102 100	2 100	2.1
Other supplies, services and equipment	1 243 900	2 696 200	1 452 300	116.8
Total	**33 551 500**	**57 969 700**	**24 418 200**	**72.8**

30. The Advisory Committee notes that in a number of instances, such as under travel and information technology, significant increases under the support account are due to the fact that a provision previously budgeted or absorbed under the individual missions has now been transferred to the support account. The Committee requested a table indicating the requirements transferred from the various peacekeeping missions to the support account. The Committee expects the decreases to be clearly indicated under the mission budgets (see annex II and paras. 33-35 below).

31. The increase of $2,506,100 in the resources under general temporary assistance is related mostly to additional requirements in the Department of Management in connection with the maintenance of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations data centre and help desk in the Information Technology Services Division, the implementation of three information technology projects and preparation for the introduction of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (see paras. 90, 105 and 107 below); and in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as a result of additional resources requested under the Office of Mission Support (see para. 74 below).

32. The resources for consultants are estimated at $5,057,800, an increase of $3,290,000 over the approved resources of $1,767,800 for 2005/06. The Committee notes that most of the increase relates to expertise requested for the Department of Management for the development, configuration and implementation of information technology systems, where total resources amounting to $2,759,700 are proposed (an increase of $1,965,100) (see paras. 91 and 109 below), and in connection with several studies and reviews, mostly proposed for the Office of Mission Support in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, where an amount of $1,206,000 is requested (an increase of $985,000) (see para. 73 below).

33. Resources for official travel are proposed at $11,162,700, an increase of $5,935,100 over the $5,227,600 approved for 2005/06. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the increase relates to the transfer to the support account of the non-training travel costs of Headquarters Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff to peacekeeping missions (previously charged to the missions), training activities projected for the Department and the training related to the

implementation of new systems developed in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Office of Central Support Services (see paras. 34, 51, 92 and 104 below).

34. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the travel requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for 2006/07 are proposed at $7,658,900 (an increase of $5,100,800 over the resources approved for 2005/06). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the provision for 2006/07 now includes the non-training travel costs of Headquarters staff to peacekeeping missions, previously budgeted under the respective missions, based on the actual expenditures of $5,317,923 recorded for 2004/05 for that purpose (see annex II). The requirements for 2006/07 are therefore based on a maintenance level for the non-training travel costs of Headquarters staff to peacekeeping missions ($5,313,800); the training-related portion of travel costs for 2006/07 amounts to $2,345,100 (see para. 51 below).

35. An amount of $12,072,000 is proposed for information technology, an increase of $5,903,100, or 95.7 per cent, over the $6,168,900 approved for 2005/06. This is related mostly to the development of related systems in the Department of Management, such as the Enterprise Budget Application (EBA) system in the Peacekeeping Financing Division (see para. 91 below), the Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) in the Information Technology Services Division and the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) system for the Archives and Records Management Section (see para. 105 below); the development of information technology projects in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, such as the Intranet, ECM and the maintenance and enhancement of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section website; and provision for the purchase of information technology equipment associated with the additional support account posts proposed. The total costs related to these applications are shown in annex V to the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727).

36. The requirements for facilities and infrastructure and for communications reflect increases of $4,848,200 (52 per cent) and $481,300 (40.4 per cent), respectively, over the resources approved for 2005/06. The increase under both budget lines is directly associated with the requirements for the new posts proposed in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Management and the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The costing for these items is based on standard costs (A/60/727, paras. 40-43).

37. **The Advisory Committee notes that the resources proposed for some items under the support account are but part of a quantum of requirements that relate to the follow-up of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide" (A/60/692 and Corr.1). The Committee has consistently cautioned against a piecemeal approach. Accordingly, in the paragraphs below, the Committee recommends deferring final decisions on some of the proposals until consideration of the follow-up reports.**

Detailed recommendations

A. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

38. The Advisory Committee notes that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, besides supporting 15 active peacekeeping operations, provides backstopping for the four special political missions or offices for which it has the substantive lead (the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste, the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo), as well as the full range of administrative and logistical support services to the 12 special political or peacebuilding missions managed by the Department of Political Affairs.

Posts

39. The number of temporary support account posts proposed for 2006/07 is 647 (422 Professional and 225 General Service), reflecting a net increase of 79 posts over the level approved for 2005/06. The Advisory Committee was informed that, of the 568 posts currently approved for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (360 Professional and 208 General Service), as at 31 March 2006 there were 19 vacancies (14 Professional and 5 General Service).

1. Office of the Under Secretary-General

Posts

40. The number of posts financed through the support account is proposed to increase from 48 in the 2005/06 budget (27 Professional and 21 General Service) to 84 for 2006/07 (52 Professional and 32 General Service). A total of 27 posts are to be transferred from the Military Division (20 posts) and the Office of Mission Support (7 posts) to the new Integrated Training Service, of which 5 are to be transferred to the United Nations Logistics Base (see para. 44 below); 14 new posts are also proposed for this Office, resulting in a net increase of 36 posts.

41. In the immediate Office of the Under-Secretary-General an additional General Service post (Other level) is proposed for an Information Management Assistant to provide functions related to the processing of mail, providing information to senior managers and maintaining the central filing system (A/60/727, paras. 48-51). **In view of the current strength of four Information Management Assistants, the Advisory Committee recommends against the approval of this post.**

42. An additional P-4 post is proposed for an Information Management Officer in the Change Management Unit, in order to support the Director of Change Management in executing the functions related to the development and coordination of the Department's information management strategy (A/60/727, paras. 52-54). The Advisory Committee notes that the functions of the post deal with management of information strategies instead of focusing on technical requirements for the implementation of information strategies, which is the function of existing posts in the Communications and Information Technology Service. The Committee notes that an information management function is also proposed at the P-3 level for the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section (see para. 49 below). **Given the functional**

link between the Change Management Unit and the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly allocate an additional P-3 post to be placed by the Secretary-General in either unit, as he deems necessary.

43. An Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is proposed to be established, which, pending completion of the ongoing departmental reform, will report to the Director of Change Management. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 55 of A/60/727 that the proposal is made in response to the requests made by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly for transparency and coordination of all aspects of training (A/59/736/Add.2, para. 17, and General Assembly resolution 59/299, para. 2). The Integrated Training Service, which amalgamates the Training and Evaluation Service of the Military Division and the Civilian Training Service of the Personnel Management and Support Service, will be responsible for the coordination of all departmental substantive and technical training. Information is provided in this regard in the support account document (A/60/727, paras. 55-59) and in the overview report (A/60/696, paras. 72-75).

44. The Integrated Training Service will include a total of 35 posts, of which 25 will be at Headquarters and 10 in the training delivery cell at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. A total of 27 posts are proposed for transfer from the Military Division (20 posts) and the Office of Mission Support (7 posts), to be supplemented with the establishment of 8 new posts, of which 3 are requested under the support account: one D-1 post for a Chief of Service and two support staff (General Service (Other level)) (see also paras. 58 and 75 below). The remaining posts for the training delivery cell are presented in the context of the Logistics Base budget (see A/60/711). Information on the organizational structure of the Service and its functions is provided in paragraph 59 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727) (see also para. 51 below). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the transfer of the 27 posts to the new Integrated Training Service. However, the Committee is not convinced of the need for the additional D-1 for a Chief of Service and the two General Service posts in view of the current staff resources in that Office. The proposal should be revisited in the context of the report on human resources issues to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.**

45. In the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, eight new posts are proposed to be established: four posts to strengthen the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 1 General Service (Other level)), one P-3 Gender Affairs Officer post, one P-3 Coordination Officer post (Civil Affairs), one P-3 Information Officer post, one P-4 Policy Coordinator post (Guidance) and one General Service (Other level) post.

46. The capacity for backstopping and managing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in field operations is proposed to be strengthened with a P-5 post for Chief of Unit, two P-3 posts and one General Service (Other level) post (A/69/727, paras. 67-72). The Advisory Committee notes that current capacity for these functions consists of one P-4 Officer post, providing support to two out of six field-based programmes (UNMIS and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)). The incumbent of the P-5 post will be responsible for managing and supervising the activities of the Unit, as well as raising and managing voluntary

contributions from Member States and building partnerships with the other institutions, funds and programmes involved in these types of processes (A/60/727, para. 71). Along with the existing P-4 Officer, the addition of two P-3 personnel would allow each one to provide support to two of the six missions with such components, as well as to further support policy development, the foundation and implementation of the training strategy. The core activities of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit are indicated in paragraph 69 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727). **The Committee recommends approval of the P-5 post for the Chief of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit, one P-3 post and one General Service (Other level) post.**

47. An additional P-3 post is proposed for a Gender Officer to support the Gender Adviser and strengthen technical capacity within the Department in support of gender mainstreaming functions (A/60/727, paras. 73-76). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the post for the Gender Officer.**

48. A dedicated post at the P-3 level for a Coordination Officer (Civil Affairs) is proposed to be created within the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section in order to support the civilian affairs component in peacekeeping missions (A/60/727, paras. 77-80). The Advisory Committee notes that there is no such capacity at present and that, as indicated, such a position would provide strategic direction for this major component of peacekeeping missions, ensuring the recruitment of staff with the right skills or experience and developing a coherent body of guidance materials and good practice in this area of work. **The Committee recommends approval of the post for a Coordination Officer.**

49. A P-3 post for an Information Officer (Information Management) is proposed to carry out projects requiring an alignment of section interests with technology initiatives, thus synchronizing information management practices with the efforts to strengthen policy/doctrine development (A/60/727, paras. 81-84). The Advisory Committee notes that an information management function is also proposed in the Change Management Unit. **Given the functional link between the Change Management Unit and the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, the Committee recommends the allocation of an additional P-3 post, to be placed by the Secretary-General in either unit, as he deems necessary (see para. 42 above).**

50. An additional P-4 post for a Policy Coordinator (Guidance) is proposed to lead the policy and guidance support team in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and to support senior management oversight of policy activity within the Department and with other partners; an additional General Service (Other level) post is also proposed for an Administrative Assistant who would provide support for the staff and activities related to both the guidance project and the Gender Unit (A/60/727, paras. 85-87). **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that these functions should be provided through redeployment and recommends against approval of these two posts.**

Non-post resources

51. A provision for $3,034,100 is proposed for official travel, an increase of $2,643,400 over the approved resources for 2005/06. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase is due mostly to the consolidation of all the Department's training activities under the new Integrated Training Service. Information provided to the Committee on the activities proposed for the Integrated Training Service for

2006/07 is in annex III below. The Committee was further informed that the non-staff requirements of $3,726,700 for the Integrated Training Service include $2,345,100 for travel, $148,300 for consultants, and $1,233,300 for fees, supplies, services and equipment.

52. The resources for general temporary assistance proposed at $653,700 include, besides the provision for the replacement of staff on maternity and sick leave in the Department, $527,200 related to provisions for the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, as explained in A/60/727, paragraphs 89 to 93. The Advisory Committee notes that 12 months of general assistance at the P-3 level ($160,600) are included in relation with the implementation in the Department of the ECM system (see paras. 104-105 below).

2. Office of Operations

Posts

53. Thirteen new posts are proposed to be established in the Office of Operations: 12 additional posts to support African peacekeeping capacities (2 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3, and 3 General Service (Other level)) and one P-5 post for a Senior Political Affairs Officer.

54. The additional posts to support African peacekeeping capacities are proposed pursuant to the commitment contained in General Assembly resolution 60/1, reiterated in Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), to support African peacekeeping capacity-building (A/60/727, paras. 108-119). The Advisory Committee notes that two officers in the Africa Division have been dealing with this issue on a part-time basis in addition to their responsibilities for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and UNMIS. A small assistance cell is also currently funded under the UNMIS 2005/06 budget, staffed by one D-1 Principal Liaison Officer, one Logistics Officer (P-4), one Administrative Assistant (Field Service) and two drivers (national General Service).

55. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, on the basis of needs identified by the African Union and experience gained with the operation of the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) assistance cell, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is proposing to establish two integrated multidisciplinary teams, in New York and Addis Ababa, to elaborate and implement a comprehensive programme of support in close cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system and external partners, including the African Union. The eight-person team proposed for Addis Ababa would include a Team Leader (P-5), a Military Adviser (P-4), a Police Adviser (P-4), a Logistics Expert (P-4), an Information Communications Expert (P-3), a Finance Administration Expert (P-3) and two General Service (Other level) support staff. The four-person team in New York would include a Team Leader (P-5), a Political Officer (P-4), a Coordination Officer (P-4) and one General Service (Other level) support staff. The functions they would carry out are indicated in paragraphs 118 and 119 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727).

56. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the programme of support for African peacekeeping capacity-building should be expeditiously elaborated in order to clearly indicate the contributions to be provided by the United Nations system and other external partners, including the African Union, in**

building such a capacity. Moreover, the Committee has repeatedly stressed the need for synergies and cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, as well as other entities of the United Nations system. The Committee encourages further efforts in this regard. At this stage, the Committee is recommending the approval of the P-5 post (Team Leader), the three P-4 posts (Military Adviser, Police Adviser and Logistics Expert) and the two General Service (Other level) posts proposed for Addis Ababa. The Committee does not, at this stage, recommend approval of the two P-3 posts proposed for Addis Ababa, and requests that the urgent needs for the envisaged functions be accommodated from within the current capacity of United Nations/African Union Liaison Office, the United Nations AMIS assistance cell and, where possible, the Economic Commission for Africa. Regarding the New York-based team, the Committee recalls the recent establishment of a focal point within the Department for Political Affairs for regional and subregional organizations in the context of the revised estimates for the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Committee therefore recommends approval of the P-4 (Coordination Officer) post for New York, but does not, at this time, recommend approval of the P-5 (Team Leader) post, the P-4 (Political Officer) post and the General Service post.

57. An additional P-5 post is requested for a Senior Political Affairs Officer to head the MINUSTAH team (A/60/727, paras. 120-122). The Advisory Committee notes that the Mission has been supported to date by one full-time officer, supported by staff temporarily redeployed from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and other teams; the post is requested in view of the complexity of the Mission. **The Committee recommends that the function be provided through redeployment.**

3. Office of Mission Support

Posts

58. A total of 30 new posts are proposed for the Office of Mission Support: 20 posts for the Administrative Support Division (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2 and 7 General Service (Other level)), including nine new posts for the Headquarters Conduct and Discipline Unit (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 1 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)); and 10 new posts for the Logistics Support Division (1 D-1, 4 P-4 and 5 P-3). As indicated in paragraph 44 above, seven posts are to be transferred from the Administrative Support Division (Civilian Training Section) to the Integrated Training Service, resulting in a net increase of 23 posts. The Advisory Committee notes that the Civilian Training Section included 12 posts before the transfer resulting from the combination of the Civilian Training Section and the Career Development Unit. The Committee was informed that the five posts remaining are those of the former Career Development Unit, performing functions relating to the career development of civilian staff.

59. A P-5 post (Senior Policy Coordination Officer) is to be redeployed from the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General to the Personnel Management and Support Service to head the Senior Leadership Section (see para. 64 below); in exchange, a P-4 post is to be redeployed from the Personnel Management and Support Service to perform functions of an Administrative Management Officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General.

Conduct and Discipline Unit

60. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/301, approved the use of general temporary assistance resources, equivalent to one P-5, one P-4, one P-2 and one General Service (Other level), to provide start-up capacity to address personnel conduct issues relating to all categories of staff, pending a decision on the recommendations of the report on sexual exploitation and abuse (see A/59/710). The Committee further notes that a comprehensive report on this issue is to be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly at the resumed part of its sixtieth session, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/296, section XIV, paragraph 4. As indicated in the overview report (A/60/696, paras. 75-77) and the support account document (A/60/727, paras. 130-141), the Secretary-General is proposing to establish a permanent capacity at Headquarters to address conduct and discipline issues, including but not limited to sexual exploitation and abuse for all categories of personnel. The proposed Conduct and Discipline Unit includes nine new posts: one D-1 post for a Chief of Unit, one P-5 post for a Senior Policy Adviser, four P-4 posts for Disciplinary Officers, one P-2 post for a Reporting Officer and two General Service (Other level) posts for administrative assistants. The functions to be performed by these posts are described in paragraphs 135-138 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727).

61. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of the Conduct and Discipline Unit. In making its recommendation on these posts, the Committee takes into account the fact that the eventual workload is not yet known but is only forecast, as well as the fact that a certain capacity already exists in peacekeeping missions. The Committee also points out the need for coordination with other relevant departments and offices in this matter. Under the circumstances, and pending the submission of the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/296, the Committee is recommending approval of the D-1 post for the Chief of the Unit, of two of the four P-4 posts for Disciplinary Officers, of the P-2 post for the Reporting Officer and of one of the two General Service posts proposed. With regard to the Disciplinary Officers, should the eventual workload require it, general temporary assistance may be used, in place of the third P-4 Disciplinary Officer requested. The Committee recommends against the provision of a fourth P-4 Disciplinary Officer at this point, the P-5 Senior Policy Adviser and one General Service post. Given the legal aspects of the work of the Conduct and Discipline Unit, pertaining, e.g., to staff regulations and rules and the administration of justice, the Committee emphasizes the key importance of the Unit at Headquarters being staffed with persons with appropriate legal background. Furthermore, the Committee expects that the resources approved will be used for the intended purpose only and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 59/296.**

Administrative Support Division

62. Four new posts are proposed in the Office of the Director. Two posts are requested to strengthen the Audit Focal Point, a P-5 post for a Senior Operational Review Officer and a General Service (Other level) post for an Assistant in view of the increase in audit activities (A/60/727, paras. 143-147). **The Advisory Committee does not recommend the approval of these posts at this time, in view**

of the ongoing evaluation of governance and oversight to be finalized in May 2006.

63. A P-5 post for a Procurement Management Officer and a P-4 post for a Procurement Officer are requested to strengthen the procurement management functions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Advisory Committee notes that the request reflects the management responsibilities contained in the delegation of authority. The functions of both posts are indicated in paragraphs 150-151 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727). **In line with its comments in paragraph 37 above, and pending consideration of the report to be submitted pursuant to the request in paragraph 7 of its report A/60/735, the Committee recommends deferring action on this proposal. However, in case the General Assembly has not been able to take a decision by 30 June 2006 on this matter, the Committee recommends that 50 per cent of the requirements related to these proposals be funded from general temporary assistance, without prejudice to the grade levels of the posts to be decided.**

64. A Senior Leadership Section is proposed to be established within the Personnel Management and Support Service in order to support the targeted search, recruitment and management of senior leadership positions in field missions at the D-1 level and above. Details of this initiative are contained in the overview report (A/60/696, paras. 85-92) and the support account document (A/69/727, paras. 152-153). The Section is to include four positions: a Chief (P-5), a Human Resources Officer (P-4) and two Human Resources Assistants (one GS (Principal level) and one GS (Other level)). As indicated in paragraph 59 above, the P-5 post of the Chief would be transferred from the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General, the P-4 post and the General Service (Principal level) are proposed to be funded through general temporary assistance, and the General Service (Other level) post would be redeployed from within the Service (see also para. 74 below). The Advisory Committee notes that the initiative will be assessed after the first year. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal.**

65. Five additional posts are proposed for the Administration and Travel Section — two P-3 posts for Human Resources Officers and three General Service (Other level) posts for two Human Resource Assistants and one Administrative Clerk — in order to respond to the increase in workload related to the travel of civilian staff, civilian police and military observers to peacekeeping missions (A/60/727, paras. 154-156). **In view of the current number of support account posts in the Section (9 Professional and 35 General Service), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of one of the two P-3 posts, one of the two General Service (Other level) posts for the Assistants and the General Service (Other level) post for an Administrative Clerk.**

66. Two additional posts are proposed for the Finance Management and Support Service in order to strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section: a Claims Officer post (P-3) and a Claims Assistant post (GS (Other level)) (A/60/727, paras. 157-160). The Advisory Committee recalls that one P-3 post was provided for this purpose in the context of the 2005/06 submission and notes that the backlog has been cleared. **The Committee does not recommend approval of the two posts proposed.**

Logistics Support Division

67. As indicated in paragraph 161 of the support account budget (A/60/727), the Logistics Support Division currently consists of three services (Operational Support Service, Communications and Information Technology Service and Specialist Support Service). The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is proposing to create a fourth service (Transportation and Movement) in order to improve the management and oversight of the Air Transport Section, Surface Transport Section and Movement Control Unit and their respective functions. It is proposed to establish a D-1 post for a Chief of Section, who would oversee the activities of the 26 Professionals and 11 General Service staff currently performing those functions, and five additional Professional posts requested for related functions (see paras. 68-69 below). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed post for the Chief of the Transportation and Movement Service (D-1 level) be provided by upgrading the functions of an existing P-5 post to the D-1 level.**

68. Within the Transportation and Movement Service, two P-4 posts for Air Transport Desk Officers are requested to support the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and UNMIS air operations, in view of the size and importance of the aviation fleets in both Missions and the volume and complexity of the tasks involved (A/60/727, paras. 169-172). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of one of the two P-4 posts proposed for a Desk Officer.** Two Air Transport Officer posts (P-4 and P-3) are also requested for the Aviation Project, Planning and Training Unit (A/60/727, paras. 173-175). The proposed P-4 is to manage and supervise the work of the Unit and ensure implementation of International Civil Aviation Organization guidance. The Officer at the P-3 level is requested to develop and revise the Air Operations Manual and United Nations Headquarters standard operating procedures and to conduct training courses. **The Committee recommends approval of the P-4 post proposed for the Aviation Project, Planning and Training Unit. The Committee recommends against approval of the P-3 post; the functions should be performed by existing staff.**

69. A P-3 post is also requested for a Surface Transport Officer to manage, support, monitor and establish policy in respect of all issues dealing with safety of the Department's global vehicle fleet and associated equipment (A/60/727, paras. 176-177). **In view of the importance of safety and security for personnel serving in the field, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of this post.**

70. The Engineering Section of the Logistics Support Division requests a P-3 post for an Environmental Engineering Officer to implement and monitor environmental programmes in the field (A/60/727, paras. 178-182). The Advisory Committee recalls that such a request was made in the context of the 2005/06 submission for the support account. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/301, decided to provide general temporary assistance for this purpose and requested the Secretary-General to rejustify the position by providing information on the necessity of the backstopping capacity at Headquarters and on the cooperative arrangements with the United Nations Environment Programme. **The Committee recommends approval of this post, in view of the information provided in paragraphs 178-182 of the support account budget, and its previous recommendation in this regard (A/59/784, para. 68).**

71. Three additional posts (1 P-4 and 2 P-3) are requested for the Communications and Information Technology Service. The proposed P-4 post for a Communications Officer (Broadcasting) is requested to provide a dedicated capacity within the Department, non-existent to date, for the deployment, maintenance and support of broadcasting media in field operations. The functions have been provided to date through ad hoc temporary arrangements (A/60/727, paras. 183-185). A P-3 post is requested for the functions of a Video Conference Coordinator in response to the increase in the use of videoconferencing and to head a proposed unit to be created for this purpose (A/60/727, paras. 186-188). A P-3 post is also proposed for an Information Technology Security Coordination Officer to coordinate and oversee the security of the information technology infrastructure and information of the Department (A/60/727, paras. 189-190). **The Advisory Committee recommends against the approval of these three posts. The Committee is of the opinion that capacity should be obtained in-house for this purpose.**

Non-post resources

72. The resources proposed for travel amount to $2,108,800 (an increase of $1,580,400 relative to those approved for 2005/06). The requirements are summarized in paragraphs 215-225 of the budget report (A/60/727). The Advisory Committee notes that the increase is due entirely to the inclusion of mission-specific travel under the support account, previously included in the mission budgets (see paras. 33-34 above). **While the Committee recognizes the impact of the budgeting shift, it recommends an efficient use of the resources proposed for this purpose, through the use of available communications and information technology and the organization of travel so as to include visits to other missions in the region, whenever possible.**

73. The resources for consultants amount to $1,206,000 (an increase of $985,000 over those approved for 2005/06) in order to, among other things, carry out a series of reviews and assessments. Details are provided in paragraphs 201-214 of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/727). **The Advisory Committee has consistently cautioned against the increased use of consultants, especially where there is potential for utilization of in-house expertise. In this connection, the Committee looks forward to the Secretary-General's report on this matter, as requested by the General Assembly in section XI of its resolution 59/266. The Committee is of the opinion that expertise available in the Office of Mission Support should be utilized to carry out many of these tasks. Accordingly, the Committee recommends a reduction of $985,000 in the resources proposed for consultants.**

74. An amount of $1,525,900 is requested under general temporary assistance (an increase of $726,000 over the resources approved for 2006/07). The Recruitment and Placement Section requests two P-3 and two P-2 posts under general temporary assistance (an increase of 2 P-2 posts) to continue the prevention of backlogs in filling vacancies in field missions and provide administrative support with respect to recruitment and placement processes ($576,000) (A/60/727, paras. 192-193). Two posts (1 P-4 and 1 GS (Other level)) are requested under general temporary assistance in connection with the Senior Leadership Section ($319,200), as indicated in paragraph 64 above (A/60/727, paras 194-195). The Finance Management and Support Service is requesting the following: nine months of General Service (Other level) general temporary assistance to support the Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group, expected to convene in February and March 2008 ($69,100); 12

months at the P-3 level ($160,600) for the development of a standardized cost centre budgeting model; nine months at the P-4 level ($148,300) for a business analyst to assess the requirements for the automation of manual contingent-owned equipment processes in missions and at Headquarters; and 12 months of P-3 and General Service (Other level) assistance ($252,700) in the Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section (A/60/727, paras. 196-200 and para. 66 above). As indicated in paragraph 66 above, an additional post was provided for the Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section in 2005/06 and the backlog has been cleared. **The Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of $252,700 in the requirements for general temporary assistance.**

4. Military Division

75. The number of support account posts is proposed to decrease from 80 to a new total of 60 (46 Professional and 14 General Service), reflecting the transfer of 20 posts (1 P-5, 9 P-4, 6 P-3, 4 General Service (Other level)) from the Training and Evaluation Service to the proposed Integrated Training Service (see para. 44 above). The proposed resources for 2006/07 therefore reflect a decrease of $2,589,200 in staff costs and of $1,466,000 in non-staff costs.

5. Police Division

Posts

76. The Police Division is proposed to be strengthened with 27 additional support account posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 14 P-4, 8 P-3 and 2 GS (Other level)) related to the creation of the standing police capacity. The Advisory Committee recalls that this capability was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/1. The Committee notes the information provided in this regard in the overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations (A/60/696, paras. 93-97).

77. The Advisory Committee notes that initial requirements for this capacity are proposed under the support account for 2006/07 and that the New York location seeks to ensure full integration and knowledge transfer between the standing police capacity and Headquarters. However, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will assess this capability after the first 12 months of operation, and resource requirements will be reviewed taking into account the final selection of a duty station for the location of the SPC — other possible locations will be considered. **The Committee is of the view that the Administration should utilize the standing police capacity as and when the need arises.**

78. The resources of $8,024,100 proposed for 2006/07 therefore reflect an increase of $2,981,200 in staff costs and of $1,063,200 in non-staff costs related mostly to the increase of 27 posts.

6. Centrally administered costs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

79. The total resources proposed for information technology in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations amount to $9,547,300, an increase of $4,754,800, or 99.2 per cent, over the resources for 2005/06. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed requirements include resources for the maintenance of equipment at standard rates ($783,600), acquisition of equipment ($1,401,000), a variety of software packages and licences ($2,396,700), including for a food rations

management system ($1,750,000), and external contractual services ($4,966,000). The contractual services are summarized in paragraph 262 of the budget report (A/60/727). The Committee notes that provision is included therein for Galaxy maintenance and support ($1,256,000). The Committee was informed that such requirements, previously included in the mission budgets, are now placed under the support account (see para. 30 above and annex II below). Furthermore, as the replacement with a fully integrated global system is not likely to be completed before January 2009, the system has to be maintained to ensure the continuation of recruitment and associated human resources functions.

80. Also included are requirements of $525,000 for the services required to enable the management and operation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations global disaster recovery and business continuity support (A/60/727, para. 262 (d)). In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the information provided in the overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations (A/60/696, paras. 124-126). The Committee also notes a provision for a food rations system ($360,000) under contractual services. As shown in A/60/727, annex V, however, the total cost of the proposed management system amounts to $2,110,000 (including consultants, software and licence fees) to enable the automation, management and monitoring of rations in field missions, which account for over $106 million in expenditures per year.

B. Department of Management

1. Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Posts

81. Four new posts are proposed for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General:

(a) One P-3 post for a Secretariat Services Officer in the secretariat of the Fifth Committee;

(b) Three posts for the Headquarters Committee on Contracts (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 General Service (Other level))

82. A P-3 post is requested for the secretariat of the Fifth Committee (A/60/727, paras. 263-266). The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/301, decided to provide general temporary assistance for this purpose. **The Committee recommends continuation of the provision of general temporary assistance for these functions for 2006/07. However, an assessment as to the future sustainability of the workload should be made thereafter.**

83. The Headquarters Committee on Contracts is proposed to be strengthened with a D-1 post for the Chairman of the Committee, a P-4 post for a Secretary and a General Service (Other level) post, in view of the increase in the value and complexity of peacekeeping procurement and the increase in related workload (A/60/727, paras. 267-271). The Advisory Committee notes that the proposal is also made in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see A/58/294) and the decision to place the secretariat of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, and that it is an integral part of the ongoing reform of the Organization's procurement activities. **In line with its comments in paragraph 37**

above, and pending consideration of the report to be submitted pursuant to the request in paragraph 7 of its report A/60/735 and Corr.1, the Committee recommends deferring action on this proposal. However, in case the General Assembly has not been able to take a decision on this matter by 30 June 2006, the Committee recommends that 50 per cent of the requirements related to these proposals be funded from general temporary assistance, without prejudice to the grade levels of the posts to be decided.

2. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

Posts

84. A total of 17 new posts are proposed for the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts:

(a) One post (P-4) in the Office of the Controller;

(b) Two posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) in the Peacekeeping Financing Division;

(c) Ten posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 7 General Service (Other level)) in the Peacekeeping Accounts Division;

(d) Four posts (1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)) in Treasury.

85. A P-4 post is requested for a Financial Management Officer in this Office in order to strengthen financial controls and ensure that financial policies, regulations and rules respond to the needs of the Organization, particularly as relates to general administrative management of peacekeeping operations (A/60/727, paras. 274-277). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this post. Provision of this function should have a ripple effect throughout the Organization in promoting sound financial practice.**

86. Two posts are requested for Budget Officers (P-4 and P-3) to strengthen the backstopping capacity of the Peacekeeping Financing Division, as regards UNMIS and MONUC, respectively (A/60/727, paras. 278-284). The Advisory Committee notes, however, that the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor has closed and that the liquidation of UNAMSIL is under way. Moreover, as UNMIK and the United Nations Operation in Burundi are also downsizing, it should be possible to redeploy staff internally in order to strengthen the backstopping of those missions. **The Committee recommends against the P-4 post. Instead, the Committee recommends that one P-3 post for a Budget Officer be approved and that general temporary assistance, at the P-3 level, be used to fund a second Budget Officer function.**

87. In the Accounts Division, 10 additional posts are proposed:

(a) Two posts for the Peacekeeping Accounts Section for a Finance Officer (P-3) and an Accounting Assistant (General Service (Other level)), in order to support the increased workload and volume of transactions (A/60/727, paras. 285-290). The Advisory Committee recalls that an additional P-3 and two General Service posts were provided in the context of the 2005/06 budget;

(b) One Finance Officer post (P-4) for policy support and training functions, including development of training strategy, staff exchange and field training (A/60/727, paras. 293-295);

(c) One Finance Officer post (P-3) for accounting, analysis and coordination functions related to the strategic deployment stocks (A/60/727, paras. 291-292);

(d) One General Service (Other level) post for the Payroll Section, in view of the increase in the workload related to handling the payroll of peacekeeping staff (A/60/727, para. 296-297);

(e) One General Service (Other level) post for the Insurance and Disbursement Service to assist in the administration of vehicle liability, aviation, air travel and cash in transit policies (A/60/727, para. 300);

(f) Four General Service (Other level) posts for Accounting Assistants to convert equivalent resources funded under general temporary assistance for the past five years for the processing of payments to Member States, staff and vendors and clearing backlogs (A/60/727, para. 308).

88. Four additional posts are requested for Treasury:

(a) One P-4 post for an Investment Officer, in view of the current size of the funds managed and the need for diversification. The Advisory Committee notes that of the three current Investment Officers, one funded from regular budget, one from support account and one from extrabudgetary resources, the latter will not be available after 2006 (A/60/727, paras. 302-305);

(b) One P-2 post is requested for a Computer Information Systems Officer in order to provide a second technical person to handle information technology issues, in view of Treasury's dependence on technology (A/60/727, paras. 306-307);

(c) Two General Service (Other level) posts for Treasury Operations Assistants are requested to carry out functions related to investment control (A/60/727, para. 308). The Advisory Committee recalls that general temporary assistance funding for one such post was provided under the support account for 2005/06.

89. The Advisory Committee notes that an overall management review of the Office of Programme, Planning, Budget and Accounts is currently under way (A/60/727, para. 7 and annex IV.B). **The Committee, pending the conclusion of the review, is not recommending approval of the posts proposed for the Accounts Division and Treasury. However, the Committee recommends the continuation of the general temporary assistance funding approved in the support account budget for 2005/06 for the four posts for Accounting Assistants for the processing of payments to Member States, staff and vendors and clearing backlogs in the Accounts Division and of the Treasury Operations Assistant for Treasury.**

Non-post resources

90. Requirements of $620,200 under general temporary assistance relate mostly to support for the preparations for the proposed introduction of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in peacekeeping operations ($358,500) (A/60/727, paras. 311-312 and para 91 below); requirements requested in the Peacekeeping Financing Division ($63,800) in connection with the new methodology for the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for the deployment of troops and police units (A/60/727, para. 313); and the implementation of the Enterprise Budgeting Application system ($197,900) (A/60/727, para. 314, and para 91 below).

91. An amount of $1,964,000 is proposed for consultants for 2006/07. A provision for $324,000 is included for the planning and laying of the foundation to introduce the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in peacekeeping operations. However, resources for consultants relate mostly to the development and implementation of the Enterprise Budgeting Application (EBA) system ($1,500,000) (A/60/727, para. 320). The Advisory Committee recalls that this project was originally scheduled for the period 2005/06 (see A/59/784, para. 131). The Committee was informed that the project was delayed due to negotiations with the selected vendor and cancellation of the procurement process in January 2006. The requirements are therefore rolled over into 2006/07, and the savings in the 2005/06 budget will be reported in the context of the performance report. Project requirements will be recirculated and suitable vendors identified. The Committee notes from annex V of A/60/727 that the total resources included for the development of the EBA system for 2006/07 amount to $2,223,900, including, besides the provision for consultants, resources under general temporary assistance ($197,900), information technology ($476,000) and training-related travel for cluster training of mission personnel either at Brindisi or at an alternate location ($50,000). The Committee notes that, once implemented, the EBA system should result in savings in both post and non-post resources.

92. The amount of $443,900 for travel (an increase of $242,900 over the resources approved for 2005/06) is due mostly to training-related travel in connection with the training of mission personnel on the Financial Monitoring Tool and EBA.

3. Office of Human Resources Management

Posts

93. An additional General Service (Other level) post is proposed in the Medical Services Division to provide support in handling all cases emanating from peacekeeping operations and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at Headquarters (A/60/727, paras. 334-335). **In view of the existing capacity provided from support account funding of five General Service (Other level) posts, the Advisory Committee recommends against the approval of this additional post.**

94. Two posts are requested to strengthen the Operational Services Division (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)). The P-4 post is requested to perform functions not delegated to the Personnel Management and Support Services of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in relation to the implementation of the Secretary-General's guidelines for the designation staff members performing significant functions in the management of financial, human and physical resources (ST/SGB/2005/7) and the clearance of designated staff and approval for placement of field staff to higher level posts (A/60/727, paras. 336-347). The General Service (Other level) post is requested to support the processing of staff in line with the movement of mission staff to higher-level posts and the recruitment of consultants and short-term appointments for peacekeeping-related projects (A/60/727, para. 348). **The Advisory Committee finds no compelling reason for the approval of these two posts.**

Non-post resources

95. Proposed non-post resources of $1,002,700 reflect a decrease of $176,600 from approved resources for 2005/06. The decrease is due to reduced requirements under consultants ($248,300) offset by increases under general temporary assistance ($40,400), official travel ($22,300) and other supplies, services and equipment ($9,000). The requirements of $519,100 under general temporary assistance include the continuation of the funding of a P-4 Legal Officer post in the Administrative Law Unit in order to deal with sexual exploitation and abuse cases being referred from peacekeeping missions and of a P-3 Legal Officer post in the Policy Unit to provide advice on policies related to misconduct. Six-month support at the P-3 level is also sought to assist in the development of policies to prevent harassment and discrimination and raise awareness on matters of administration of justice. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that such support should be provided through in-house capacity, in coordination with the Ethics Office. Accordingly, the requirements should be reduced by $80,350.**

96. The resources of $121,700 for consultants constitute a decrease of $248,300 from the resources approved for 2005/06, resulting from the reduction in training requirements.

4. **Office of Central Support Services**

Posts

97. Fourteen new posts are proposed for the Office of Central Support Services:

(a) Eleven posts for the Procurement Service (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 General Service (Principal level) and 2 General Service (Other level));

(b) One P-2 post for a Records Manager in the Archives and Records Management Section;

(c) Two P-3 posts for the Information Technology Services Division.

98. The Advisory Committee notes that, in line with the procurement reform, a new section, the Planning, Compliance and Monitoring Section, is proposed to be established with a dedicated capacity to work on introducing, implementing and monitoring compliance with the increased level of internal controls to be adopted at Headquarters and in peacekeeping missions (A/60/727, para. 368). Three posts are requested for the creation of this new section: a P-5 post for a Chief of Section, one P-4 post for a Compliance Officer and one General Service (Principal level) post for a support staff.

99. Two P-3 posts for Procurement Officers are requested to strengthen the Field Supply Team, which currently has five posts funded from the support account (1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 3 General Service (Other level)), for food rations and fuel products specialists (A/60/727, para. 376). The Engineering Support Team, which currently has two Procurement Officers at the P-3 level funded from the support account, is proposed to be strengthened with an additional P-4 post (A/60/727, paras. 377-378).

100. The Logistics and Transportation Section is proposed to be strengthened with one Procurement Officer at the P-4 level, one Procurement Officer at the P-3 level and one General Service post in order to increase capacity for procurement of transportation services and undertake new initiatives (A/60/727, paras. 379-382). The Support Services Section is proposed to be strengthened with an additional

Procurement Officer at the P-3 level to improve its capacity to review vendor profiles and a Procurement Assistant (General Service (Other level)) to strengthen the vendor registration unit (A/60/727, paras. 383-384).

101. **In line with its comments in paragraph 37 above, and pending consideration of the report to be submitted pursuant to the request in paragraph 7 of its report A/60/735, the Advisory Committee recommends deferring action on the proposals in paragraphs 98 to 100 above. However, in case the General Assembly has not been able to take a decision on this matter by 30 June 2006, the Committee recommends that 50 per cent of the requirements related to these proposals be funded from general temporary assistance, without prejudice to the grade levels of the posts to be decided.**

102. A P-2 post is proposed for a Records Manager in the Archives and Records Management Section (A/60/727, paras. 385-389). The Advisory Committee notes that these functions have been provided through general temporary assistance since June 2004 and that the post is being requested in view of the continuous nature of the functions. **The Committee recommends approval of this post.**

103. The two P-3 posts for the Information Technology Services Division are requested for a Network Operations Officer, in view of the growth in the complexity of the network operations, and for a Secure Communications Network Officer, in view of the restructuring and replacement of the crypto-hardware-based network (A/60/727, paras. 390-394). **The Advisory Committee is deferring action on these two posts until consideration of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in May 2006, as requested by the Committee in paragraph 7 of its report (A/60/735).**

Non-post resources

104. Two pilot projects, part of the enterprise-wide deployment, are proposed to be undertaken by the Information Technology Services Division to be implemented as a pilot project in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and one mission. The Customer Relationship Management (CRM) initiative is part of a comprehensive programme at Headquarters to support, automate and streamline existing business processes. The Enterprise Content Management (ECM) project is a software solution that will standardize and facilitate the creation, storage and management of structured and unstructured content. The Advisory Committee recalls that resources for these two projects were included in the support account budget for 2005/06. The Committee provided information in paragraphs 125-129 of its report (A/59/784) and recommended approval of the launching of the pilot projects.[2] The General Assembly did not provide the funds requested, with the exception of the resources proposed for the ECM project in the Archives and Records Management Section (General Assembly resolution 59/301, para. 16).

105. The total resources provided in the Information Technology Services Division for the CRM project in 2006/07 amount to $686,300, of which $413,300 is included under general temporary assistance (A/60/727, para. 400), $175,000 is included under consultants for the provision of expertise for systems and infrastructure integration (A/60/727, para. 410), and $98,000 is included under information

[2] See also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (A/60/7 and Corr.1), chap. II, paras. VIII.45-46.

technology to cover software licences and maintenance costs (A/60/727, para. 437). The overall resources for the ECM project amount to $971,300, including a provision for $413,300 under general temporary assistance (A/60/727, para. 401), $270,000 under consultants (A/60/727, para. 410) and $288,000 under information technology to cover software licences and maintenance costs (A/60/727, para. 437). **The Advisory Committee reiterates its request for the preparation, upon completion of the pilot project, of a comprehensive proposal clearly indicating all associated costs under peacekeeping activities and the regular budget, including planned activities, time frame for completion and anticipated efficiency gains.**

106. The resources of $2,795,400 for general temporary assistance proposed for 2006/07 reflect an increase of $2,426,000 over requirements for 2005/06. Besides the elements addressed in the paragraphs above, related to the implementation of the pilot projects, the Advisory Committee notes that the requirements provide for the continuation of three General Service (Other level) posts to continue to improve effectiveness and efficiency in relation to freight-forwarding operations ($276,200). The savings achieved by this initiative and process improvements will be reported in the support account submission for the period 2007/08 (A/60/727, para. 404).

107. General temporary assistance funding ($803,000) is also requested for the maintenance of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Data Centre in New York, for which the Information Technology Services Division assumed responsibility as from 1 January 2005 (see para. 18 above), representing an increase in funding to support five P-3 posts rather than the current three such posts in view of the doubling of the volume of the Storage Area Network, and for the Helpdesk ($138,100) (A/60/727, paras. 397-398).

108. The Advisory Committee notes that an amount of $430,400 is requested for the recruitment of two additional staff (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) under general temporary assistance to provide the Procurement Reform Implementation Team the resources needed to begin the reform process, in follow-up to the recommendations of the Deloitte and Touche consulting report (A/60/727, para. 403). The Committee was informed that it was estimated that the team would be required for a period of 18 months. **In line with its recommendation in paragraph 37 above, the Committee is deferring action on the requirements associated with assistance to the Procurement Reform Implementation Team until its consideration of the report to be submitted in May 2006. However, in case the General Assembly has not been able to take a decision on this matter by 30 June 2006, the Committee recommends that 50 per cent of the requirements related to these proposals be funded from general temporary assistance, without prejudice to the grade levels of the posts to be decided.**

109. A provision of $674,000 is proposed for consultants (an increase of $313,800 over the resources for 2005/06). The increase is due to the pilot implementation of the ECM and CRM projects referred to in paragraphs 104 and 105 above (see also A/60/727, paras. 405-410).

5. Overall resources of the Department of Management: centrally administered costs

110. Resources amounting to $12,737,500 under facilities and infrastructure provide for rental of office premises to accommodate the incumbents of all posts

proposed under the support account, with the exception of the resident auditor posts, for which the respective missions provide accommodation, and the Office of Internal Oversight Services posts in Nairobi and Vienna, for which the related costs are reflected in the budgets of those offices. This amount also includes rental of office equipment and office supplies for all posts of the Department of Management and furniture for the new posts (A/60/727, para. 427).

111. The Department of Management's requirements of $2,084,100 for 2006/07 for information technology include an increase of $796,400 over the approved resources of $1,287,700 for 2005/06. This is related mostly to the costs of licences and fees ($1,627,900), mostly in relation to the information technology system in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the pilot projects under the Office of Central Support Services referred to in paragraphs 91 and 104-105 above; for acquisition of equipment ($195,000); and for maintenance and repair of equipment ($261,200).

C. Office of Internal Oversight Services

Posts

112. The posts financed through the support account are proposed to increase from 92 in the 2005/06 budget (66 Professional and 26 General Service) to 112 for 2006/07 (75 Professional and 37 General Service). The changes include the following new support account posts:

(a) Five additional posts for the Internal Audit Division: three posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for the Resident Auditor Coordination Section and two posts (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for the Headquarters Audit Section;

(b) Two additional General Service (Other level) posts in the Executive Office for Administrative Assistants;

(c) The resident auditor pool is proposed to increase from 42 for 2005/06 to 55 resident auditors and assistants, reflecting a net increase of 13 posts. The proposal reflects the transfer of five posts currently included in the budget of UNMIS to the support account budget and the abolition of four posts related to UNAMSIL (thus, a net increase of one post), as well as the strengthening of the pool with 12 new posts. The 12 new posts include six posts to strengthen capacity in UNMIS (2 P-4 and 2 P-3 posts for resident auditors and 2 General Service (Other level) posts for audit assistants); two additional posts for MONUC for a resident auditor (P-4) and an Audit Assistant (General Service (Other level)); and four Audit Assistant posts (three national General Service in UNMEE and one General Service (Other level) in UNMIK), discontinued in 2005/06 but now being restored.

Non-post resources

113. The non-post resources of $7,600,900 for 2006/07 reflect an increase of $538,300 over the resources approved under the support account for 2005/06. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the increase relates to the additional posts proposed.

114. **The Advisory Committee notes that the ongoing evaluation of governance and oversight includes a detailed review of the Office of Internal Oversight**

Services as part of the United Nations oversight machinery, including options for the optimal level of independence, organizational structure and resource requirements; a report is expected to be submitted by 31 May 2006. Moreover, the Committee was informed during its hearings that the formula utilized to date for allocating resident auditors would be reviewed in the context of the proposals for funding resource requirements of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Committee recalls that an analysis of the role, functions and requirements of the investigator programme, including the regional hubs and the resident investigator capacity, was requested in the context of the support account budget for 2005/06 (A/59/784, para. 98). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that of the 92 support account posts approved for 2005/06 (66 Professional and 26 General Service), 17 were vacant as at 31 March 2006 (9 Professional and 8 General Service).

115. **Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends deferring action on the post and non-post resources proposed under the support account for 2006/07 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Once the required analysis and proposals referred to above have been considered by the General Assembly, a proposal concerning the support account requirements of the Office of Internal Oversight Services can be entertained.**

D. Executive Office of the Secretary-General

116. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General currently has five posts funded from the support account (1 D-2, 2 P-5 and 2 General Service (Other level)), including two additional posts provided for 2005/06: a P-5 post for a Senior Political Officer provided in relation to the workload of the Africa Team of the Executive Office and a General Service post for an Administrative Assistant. The Advisory Committee notes that the P-5 post, as requested in General Assembly resolution 59/301, is rejustified in terms of the continuing workload in the Africa Team (A/60/727, paras. 478-481). **The Committee therefore recommends the continuation of the post for 2006/07.**

E. Office of Legal Affairs

117. The support account resources of $1,415,800 proposed for 2006/07 reflect an increase of $464,900 over the resources of $950,900 approved for 2005/06. The increase relates to the proposal for four additional posts: two P-5 and one P-4 for lawyers to work on complex procurement-related matters and one General Service (Other level) to provide administrative and clerical support. The Advisory Committee notes that there are five Professional posts currently funded from the support account. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the request reflects the increase in the workload related to requests for provision of legal assistance to peacekeeping operations, particularly arising from procurement activities (A/60/727, paras. 490-495).

118. **In line with its comments in paragraph 37 above, and pending consideration of the report to be submitted pursuant to the request in paragraph 7 of its report A/60/735, the Committee recommends deferring action on this proposal. However, in case the General Assembly has not been**

able to take a decision on this matter by 30 June 2006, the Committee recommends that 50 per cent of the requirements related to these proposals be funded from general temporary assistance, without prejudice to the grade levels of the posts to be decided.

F. Department of Safety and Security

119. The support account resources of $2,407,100 proposed for 2006/07 (an increase of $316,100 over those approved for 2005/06) include the request for one additional P-4 post for a Security Coordination Officer in order to strengthen the Peacekeeping Operations Support Service in its capability to address the increased workload in view of the number of operations, complexity of the tasks and degree of responsibilities involved (A/60/727, paras. 507-512). Current support account posts allocated to this Service include a P-5 Senior Security Coordination Officer, three P-4 Security Coordination Officers, one P-4 Stress Counsellor and two General Service (Other level) posts. **While the Advisory Committee recognizes the need for these functions, it is of the view that the functions should be provided through redeployment.**

V. Conclusion

120. **In the present report, of the 142 net additional posts proposed, the Advisory Committee has recommended approval of a total of 55 posts; it has recommended that 45 posts not be approved and that action on 42 be deferred. Of the posts recommended for deferral, 22 would be considered in the context of the Secretary-General's report to be presented in May 2006 (see paras. 37, 63, 83, 101, 103 and 118 above). Another 20 posts recommended for deferral relate to the Office of Internal Oversight Services; these would be considered in accordance with what is stated in paragraphs 114-115 above.**

121. **The recommendations of the Advisory Committee involve reductions totalling $31,663,500 gross ($28,786,100 net), as shown below:**

	Post reductions (gross)	*Non-post reductions (gross)*
Unit	*United States dollars*	
Department of Peacekeeping Operations	2 924 800	1 452 500
Department of Management	2 956 700	2 333 800
Office of Internal Oversight Services	13 846 900	7 601 000
Office of Legal Affairs	391 200	44 700
Department of Safety and Security	99 000	12 900
Total	**20 218 600**	**11 444 900**

122. **Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve total staffing and non-staffing requirements of $157,857,300 gross ($141,766,300 net) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. As indicated in paragraphs 37, 63, 83, 101 and 118 above, should the General**

Assembly not be able to take a decision by 30 June 2006 on the report requested to be submitted in follow-up to the Secretary-General's report A/60/692 and Corr.1, it may wish to consider approving general temporary assistance equivalent to 50 per cent of the posts deferred. This would amount to an additional $2,425,800 (including associated non-post resources).

123. **With regard to the proposal of the Secretary-General in paragraph 49 (a) of the performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/681 and Corr.1), the amounts would be dealt with in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General in paragraph 49 (b) of that report.**

124. **The Advisory Committee also recommends that the amount of $15,804,000 in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, related to the period ended 30 June 2005, be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (see A/60/696, paras. 140-141 and 152 (b)).**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the performance report of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/681 and Corr.1 and Add.1)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/727)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/59/784)
- Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/19)
- Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the comprehensive management audit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/717)
- General Assembly resolutions 59/296 and 59/301

Annex I

Support account for peacekeeping operations: actual expenditures for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

As at 31 March 2006

(United States dollars)

Category	*Apportionment*	*Total expenditures*
Posts	113 383 700	77 477 956
General temporary assistance	8 522 600	2 396 625
Consultants	1 767 800	1 165 300
Official travel	5 227 600	3 680 237
Facilities and infrastructure	9 329 200	9 147 703
Communications	1 191 500	686 164
Information technology	6 168 900	2 863 539
Medical	100 000	82 964
Other services, supplies and equipment	1 243 900	913 056
Total	**146 935 200**	**98 413 545**

Annex II

Requirements in the 2006/07 budget that have been transferred from missions' budgets

(United States dollars)

A. Official travel (non-training)

Expenditure for Headquarters-initiated non-training travel to the missions in 2004/05	
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	64 202
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	374 709
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	966 306
United Nations Operation in Burundi	347 942
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	272 412
United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone	111 696
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	22 784
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	79 959
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	48 918
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy	84 570
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	55 546
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	222 718
United Nations Mission in Liberia	304 022
United Nations Mission in the Sudan	1 433 000
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor	171 175
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	51 792
Subtotal	**4 611 751**
Department of Peacekeeping Operations expenditure for non-training-related travel charged to the support account in 2004/05	706 172
Total expenditure 2004/05	**5 317 923**
Non-training-related travel proposed under the support account for 2006/07	**5 313 800**

B. Information technology

Galaxy, proposed 2006/07	1 256 000

The proposed requirement for 2006/07 is based on the past expenditure level of $1,256,000 for supporting and developing Galaxy. The staff who are supporting Galaxy are based in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In the past, these costs were funded through vacant posts either in UNMIK or other missions. The ancillary costs were absorbed by UNMIK or other missions as needed. No separate provisions were made in the mission budgets to support Galaxy.

Annex III

Support account for peacekeeping operations: proposed activities of the Integrated Training Service, 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

(United States dollars)

Description	*Amount*
Training for Member States, regional organizations and peacekeeping missions	**3 006 170**
The planned activities of the Integrated Training Service in this category will be targeted towards the following objectives:	
A. To develop, in partnership with Member States, African and emerging contributing countries' capacity to generate trained personnel at short notice for United Nations peacekeeping missions. This will include a standard training module for United Nations military observers and police course, a military and police advisers' seminar, three standardized generic training module/standard training module training-of-trainers courses for African and emerging contributing countries, a standard training module senior mission leaders course, various training recognition visits, presentations and a United Nations standard training module logistics course	1 255 300
B. To enhance regional organizations' capacity to contribute to and conduct United Nations and regional peacekeeping missions. In order to achieve this objective, the Integrated Training Service will conduct a United Nations standard training module staff officers' course and travel to provide support to regional peacekeeping exercises and seminars (African Union, European Union, Civil Aviation Authority and Asia)	261 040
C. To enhance mission readiness by improving staff skills with regard to training, evaluation, mission exercise processes, mission management, leadership, code of conduct and standards of behaviour. This will involve provision of support for mission crisis management exercises in all missions, an integrated mission training centre course, two PAS workshops for integrated mission training centres, four seminars on sexual exploitation and abuse, two United Nations police evaluation officers' training courses, eight predeployment standardized generic training module training courses for new peacekeepers, a chief military personnel officer training seminar, career development training for P-2s and P-3s, two Office of Human Resources Management personnel management training programmes, two senior leaders' induction courses and various travel to missions for training and evaluation	417 050
D. To update, maintain, develop and distribute United Nations standard training material to Member States, missions, regional organizations, United Nations agencies and other authorized peacekeeping delivery organizations. This will include standard training module reference group seminars, standard training module development workshops, training recognition seminars, standard training module e-learning course development and the production and distribution of standardized training material	1 072 780
Training for other Department of Peacekeeping Operations offices and services	**720 550**
Peacekeeping Best Practices Section: including training of HIV/AIDS focal points from all missions, training in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration chiefs from six missions, training courses and workshops on corrections, rule of law and legal and judicial reform issues, workshop on gender-related issues, annual workshop of best practices officers and focal points	223 400
Office of Operations: the Situation Centre will conduct joint security advisory/training on joint operations centres/joint mission analysis centres/geographic information systems in five peacekeeping missions	49 250

Description	*Amount*
Office of Mission Support: training in the Logistics Support Division will include training on aviation fuel standards, petroleum standards, preparation of performance-based statements of work, advanced contract management, quality assurance surveillance, rations management, supply chain management, web-mapping applications, ERDAS image processing, Environmental Systems Research Institute geographic information systems software, graphic arts software, geospatial database engineering, inventory management, vehicle fleet management, spare parts management, property management, total quality management, aviation policies and regulations, airport strategic management and planning, civil aviation management, specialized engineering issues, environmental protection, occupational safety, specialized information technology issues, shipping, air safety, project management and statistics	418 906
Police Division: police development training	29 000
Total	**3 726 726**